United States Department of Agriculture

NRCS

Natural Resources Conservation Service
Wallace F. Bennett Federal Building
125 South State Street, Room 4402
Salt Lake City, UT 84138-1100

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November 1, 2007

UTAH BULLETIN UT300-08-06

SUBJECT: LTP - FY2008 ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (EQIP) PROGRAM CHANGES AND NOTES

Purpose.   To provide information to NRCS Utah field offices on a number of changes to the FY2008 EQIP program and ProTracts.

Expiration Date.   September 30, 2009.

This bulletin is a selection of brief items provided for information regarding changes to EQIP for FY2008, specifically the CCC-1202 Appendix and ProTracts.

Producer Eligibility:

Farm Tract Eligibility (FTE): The ProTracts producer eligibility screen now contains a block for "FTE" eligibility. This block is the sum of HEL, PC, and PCW. This will enforce the need to have an association between participant and the land on new contracts. The default for FTE is "N". Field Offices should click on Update Eligibility on the participant screen to change to the FTE to "Y" in most cases. If HEL, PC, and PCW flags are not set properly, the FTE will remain at "N" and will need to be addressed through FSA.

AD-1026: An AD-1026 must be filed and "YES" for all greater than 0% participants for 2005 and later EQIP contracts.

Limited Resource Producer/Beginning Farmer (LRP/BF): Utah has set up an automatic increase in the practice payment lists that will result in an automatic 15% increase at contracting. When entering the estimated cost to NRCS in the application for a LRP/BF, field users are to enter an amount reflective of the additional 15%. This does not have an impact on the ranking score. When answering questions within the AERT that deal with "cost," the calculation should NOT reflect the additional 15%.

IMPORTANT: Field Offices MUST select BF or LRP when entering the application. Once an application has been promoted to a contract, this status CANNOT be modified.

Participant Date Signed: Field offices must now enter the date the producer signs the CCC-1202 as well as checking the signature box. This will verify signatures in the proper order on the contract and ensure that signatures have been obtained.

NOTE: The Date CCC-1202 signed box is not active until the application is promoted to Approved.

FY2002 Contracts: There is no cost overrun account for FY2002 contracts. Modifications to these contracts that involve an increase in funds must come out of the current year allocation.

CCC-1202 Appendix: New Appendices for all ProTracts cost-share programs (CSP, EQIP, and WHIP) are available on the ProTracts site under Forms. The EQIP appendix contains several wording changes and additions that you should review.

- Section 3(7) – Notes acceptance by producer of NRCS-CPA-1155 as part of the contract as written with no authority for NRCS to compensate the producer for items not listed.

- Section 3(14) – Makes it clear producer is responsible for notifying NRCS within 60 days of land transfer of an eligible transferee who is willing to accept contract.

- Section 4 – New section referencing the incorporation of the Conservation plan as part of the contract.

- Section 5B. – Allows adjustment of payment for practice installed on or ahead of schedule at potential higher rate. BASED ON FUND AVAILABILITY. Practices that have been modified forward are NOT eligible.

- Section 5F – Explains procedures for improper payments.

- Section 8C – References the current ability to unilaterally modify the contract (subject to fund availability) for increases of less than $1,000.

- Section 13F. – Lists those items considered part of the Contract.

Adjusted Gross Income (AGI): AGI authority expired on 9/30/2007. Until further notice, you are still required to obtain this information from the producer. Because the authority has expired, lack of AGI eligibility will not prevent obligation.

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